

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The configuration of a CAM device can be set in various manners depending on a system in which CAM having different configurations is needed. The CAM device includes a CAM array including a plurality of physical banks, a logical bank-physical bank converter for setting the assignment between logical banks and physical banks, and for outputting a control signal to set the configuration of a physical bank assigned to the logical bank, depending on a logical bank signal indicating a logical bank to be searched, a priority circuit for outputting search results in accordance with predetermined priority, and a cascade circuit for performing a logical operation on the search results output from the priority circuit of the present CAM device and a search results supplied from a higher-order CAM device, and transmitting the results of the logical operation to a lower-order CAM device.